# CHILD CARE DATA VIEWER

Version 3.1



# **USER'S MANUAL**

April 2018

This user's manual is a technical assistance product of the Office of Child Care, Administration for Children and Families, US Department of Health and Human Services. The manual is for distribution according to department policy. It was produced by General Dynamics Information Technology under contract HHSP233201600263W.

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# 1. OVERVIEW

#### 1.1 WHAT IS THE CHILD CARE DATA VIEWER?

The Child Care Data Viewer (Data Viewer) software was developed by the Office of Child Care (OCC) to give State and Territory CCDF grantees the ability to assess the quality of data files prior to transmitting them to the OCC. It is Microsoft Access-based computer software that is used in conjunction with grantee-prepared ACF-801 monthly data files.

The *Data Viewer* serves two primary purposes: 1) checking the quality of data, and 2) generating reports. The *Data Viewer* offers several different functions that are helpful as you work to ensure that the required CCDF data you submit accurately represent the families being served, and the providers and services supported with CCDF grant dollars. These functions include:

- The generation of the Summary Assessment Report (SAR), which provides a highlevel quality assurance (QA) check of your monthly data,
- The ability to view specific case records for detailed review, and
- The automatic calculation of standard reports based on your own monthly data, which can be used by you and your staff for supervision, public inquiries, resource development, program improvement, and community education.

**Note**: The data examples presented in this technical bulletin represent dummy data for illustration purposes only.

# 1.2 HOW IS VERSION 3.1 OF THE DATA VIEWER DIFFERENT FROM PREVIOUS VERSIONS?

This updated version of the *Data Viewer* (Version 3.1) incorporates changes to the CCDF ACF-801 reporting requirements (see the latest version of Technical Bulletin #3: <a href="https://www.acf.hhs.gov/occ/resource/current-technical-bulletins">https://www.acf.hhs.gov/occ/resource/current-technical-bulletins</a>), updates certain validity checks, and reflects other functional modifications to allow the software to operate more efficiently. These changes include:

- The incorporation of eight new Data Elements:
  - #16a Family Homeless Status
  - o #16b Family Zip Code
  - #16c Military Service
  - #16d Primary Language
  - #25a Child Disability

- o #38 Provider Subject to Head Start
- o #39 Provider Zip Code
- o #40 Inspection Date
- Updates to the error code tables to reflect system content changes.

The table on the following page provides basic information about hardware and software requirements necessary to run the program and recommendations to make using the software easier.

The remainder of this document is organized into three sections:

- Installing the software
- Using the Data Viewer -
  - Loading data,
  - o Analyzing errors, and
  - o Generating and customizing reports.
- Resources for technical assistance

#### 1.3 HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE REQUIREMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The *Child Care Data Viewer* V3.1 software was designed to require minimal hardware and software support. Requirements and recommendations are summarized below.

- Processor: 450-megahertz (MHz) Pentium II-class processor or higher is required.
- Operating System: The Data Viewer V3.1 is supported on any of the following systems:
  - Windows 10
  - Windows 7
- Microsoft Access: Microsoft Access 2000 (or newer) software is required to run the Data Viewer. Version 3.1 can run on the following versions of Microsoft Access 32/64 bit installation, with 32 bit recommended:
  - Microsoft Access 2016
  - Microsoft Access 2013
- Monitor: It is recommended that your monitor/screen resolution be set to 1024 X 780 pixels. The minimum resolution should be at least 800 X 600 pixels.
- Hard Disk: 50 MB of available space is required on the system hard drive.
- Drive: A USB port to both install the Data Viewer and to back up your current Data Viewer database. You can also use a CD RW drive to back up the database.
- Printer: In order to take full advantage of the Data Viewer's capability to print reports, your computer (PC or laptop) must be connected to a printer capable of printing in color, if available. Although the charts displayed on the Data Viewer reports will print in black and white, some graphics will look best when printed in color.
- Intranet/Internet Connection: In order to utilize the Data Viewer, you must have access, from the same computer, to your state's ACF-801 monthly data files which typically are stored on a network server.

# 2. INSTALLING THE *CHILD CARE DATA VIEWER* SOFTWARE

#### Prior to installing the *Data Viewer*, it is recommended that you:

- Ensure that your computer meets the system requirements listed in Section 1.
- Close all other programs and applications.
- Ensure that you have administrative rights to install software on your computer. Consult your IT staff if you do not have administrative rights.

#### Uninstalling Previous Versions of the *Data Viewer*

Installing Version 3.1 of the *Data Viewer* will <u>not</u> automatically uninstall earlier versions of the software. Version 3.1 will be installed as a separate program with a separate database.

#### To uninstall an earlier version of the Data Viewer:

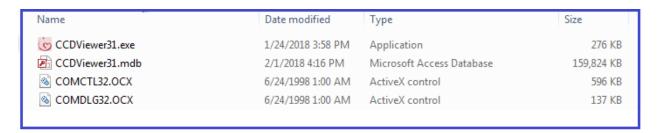
Click the START button on the Windows Taskbar.
From the start menu, access your CONTROL PANEL. The way in which you uninstall the Data Viewer program will depend upon your version of Windows. For example, in Windows 10 or 7, after accessing the CONTROL PANEL:

- ➢ Click PROGRAMS AND FEATURES
- > Click the Child Care Data Viewer version to be removed
- ➤ Click UNINSTALL

#### To Install the Data Viewer:

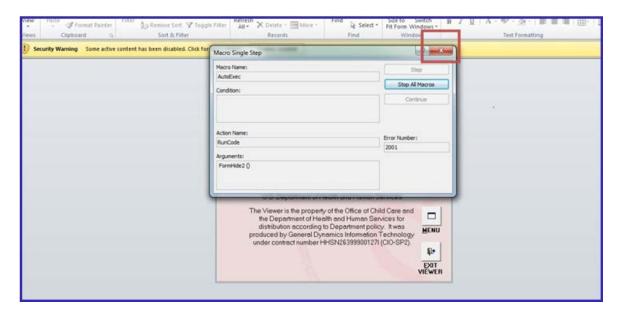
More recent versions of Windows have stricter security enhancements that only allow you to install software as read-only. In order to install and use the Data Viewer on your computer, you will have to save the software in a folder where you have administrative rights.

- Create a new folder in your personal documents folder (or some other folder where you have administrative rights to make changes.) Name the new folder "Data Viewer".
- 2. Insert the Data Viewer USB/flash drive into a USB port on your computer.
- 3. Copy the *four* files (see below) from the flash drive and paste them to the newly created **Data Viewer** folder.



4. Copying and pasting the software into the new folder will not create a shortcut icon on your desktop. You can create a shortcut or you can access the database directly from the Data Viewer folder where you copied the software files by double-clicking the **CCDViewer31.mdb** file. This will open the software for use.

 As newer versions of Microsoft Office have stricter security features, MS Access may require the user to Enable Content prior to using the Data Viewer software. As such, you may encounter the following error message when first using the Data Viewer.



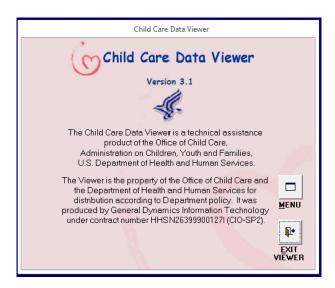
To open the software, close the error message window by clicking on the "X". You will then be able to see the security warning behind the message. Click on the **Enable Content** button.



You can then click on the **Menu** button to load an ACF-801 data file.

# 3. USING THE CHILD CARE DATA VIEWER SOFTWARE

The *Data Viewer* is an easy-to-use software program that offers a high level Quality Assurance (QA) summary of your monthly data files, allows you to easily view data that have been marked as potential errors, can automatically generate a number of predefined reports, and allows customization of some of those reports to more fully meet your program needs.



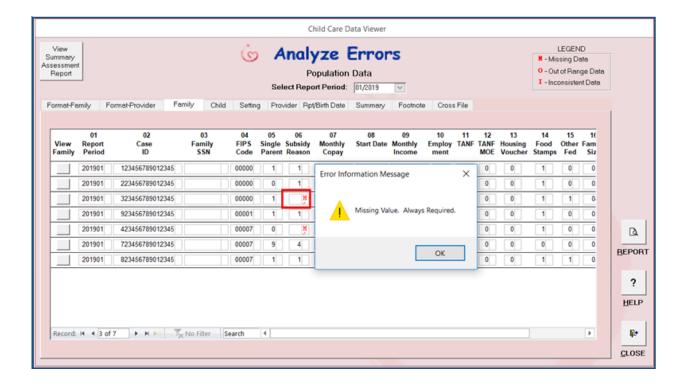
The *Data Viewer* contains familiar features that are available throughout all of the modules such as standard navigation tools and access to an integrated help system from virtually every screen. Each module is accessible through the *Data Viewer's* Main Menu.

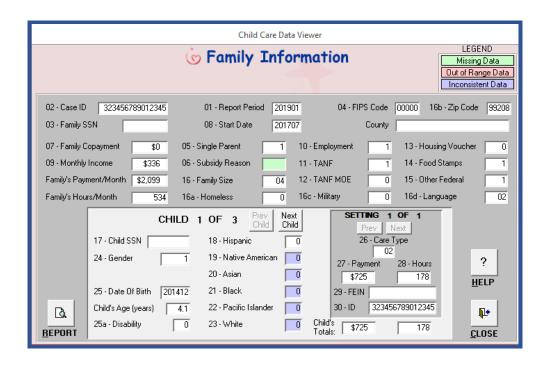


Without using the *Data Viewer*, the ACF-801 data file is hard to read and understand because it is an ASCI text file that can contain thousands of records and characters.

```
M20190100000690000033#Jane Doe#(444)444-4444#(444)444-4445#jane.doe@state.gov#$
201901123456789012345
                                  440001100352018060000000001001200693322C
                                                                                        000000120140705040584125987654321
F201901223456789012345
                                  44000010145201807000000000010020786600010
                                                                                        000001120141005040734178
201901323456789012345
                                  440001 000020170700336110011040072080020
                                                                                        000000120141205020725178
                                                                                                                             3234567890123456
F201901423456789012345
                                  440070 013520180800000000010030029200010
                                                                                        000000220170905028683178
                                                                                                                             5234567890123459
                                  440001100002018090000000001002006105002C
44000110000201808000000001003023605001C
                                                                                        00000012017032S020798878
00000022016010S040843178765432123
F201901523456789012345
                                                                                                                             523456789012345$
F201901623456789012345
201901723456789012345
                                  440079400002017080000000000000050029030050
                                                                                        000000220160505041029178765432123
201901823456789012345
                                  440071100002018090160830001102002907016C
                                                                                        000000220130415040142034876543210
F201901923456789012345
                                  440011101902017080208013001003002885001C
                                                                                        000000220150505040226088876543210
                                  440071100352018050144910001002002914001C
                                                                                         000001220140905040703178987654321
F201901113456789012345
                                  440071100002018050204710001005002907001C
                                                                                        000000120150805020740178
                                                                                                                             523456789012345
          3234567890123458999999992907$
5234567890123458999997402907$
P987654321
                           6999999902852$
8999599902863$
P876543210
                           8999999992909$
P765432123
                           8999949902909$
P665432123
                           89999999982989$
NØ7MONTHLY CO-PAY AMOUNT AND MONTHLY INCOME INCONSISTENCY IS REAL %%
NØ9HAVE MONTHLY INCOME PROBLEMS FOR EMPLOYED PARENTS.
```

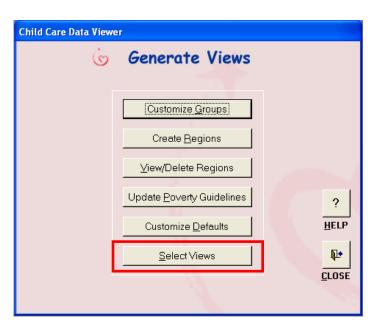
The *Data Viewer* reads your file and displays it in a user-friendly format. The *Data Viewer* allows you to see lists of records that may contain errors, as well as the details of specific individual records that appear to contain errors. Clicking on any of the red errors will display the error information message.



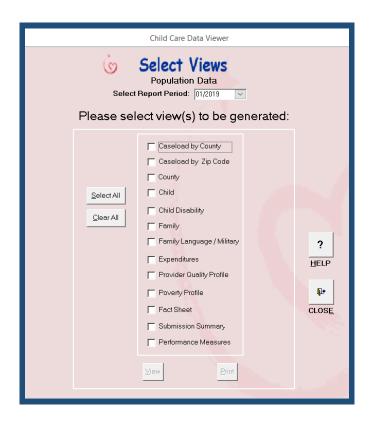


Features in the **Analyze Errors** module can support your QA reviews, staff supervision activities, and other administrative functions.

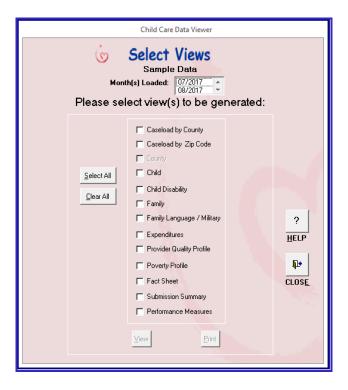
By selecting **Generate Views** from the Main Menu you can access pre-defined reports, as well as tools for customizing some of the reports and updating information on which the report calculations are based.



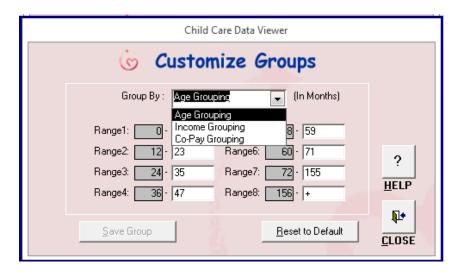
By clicking the **Select Views** button on the Generate Views sub-menu, you can access thirteen (13) pre-defined reports if you submit full population data.



Note: If you load sample data into the *Data Viewer*, the *County* report will not be available as seen below.



Reports are presented in either tabular or graphical format, all of which may be exported into a Microsoft Word or Excel document for further use and/or modification. Reports can be *customized* using tools in the Generate Views module. For some reports, you are able to modify the default ranges of the axis values. For other reports, you are able to update values used for calculations (such as current Federal Poverty Guideline thresholds) or generate a report on a defined subset of your population.



Each of these functions – loading data, analyzing information, and customizing reports – will be discussed in greater detail in the following sections:

- 3.1 Loading ACF-801 Data
- 3.2 Analyzing Errors
- 3.3 Generating and Customizing Reports

#### 3.1 LOADING ACF-801 DATA

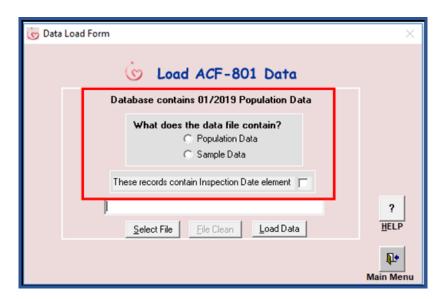
In order to load and analyze data in the *Data Viewer*, you must be able to access your ACF-801 data files on the same computer that you are using for the *Data Viewer* software.

#### To load an ACF-801 Data file:

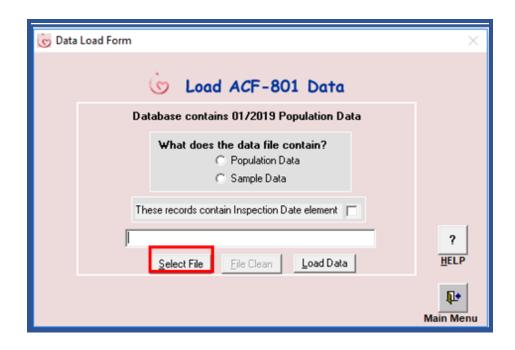
- 1. You can open the Data Viewer by browsing to the *Data Viewer* folder you created in Windows Explorer and clicking the **CCDViewer31.mdb** file.
- 2. Click the Load ACF-801 button.



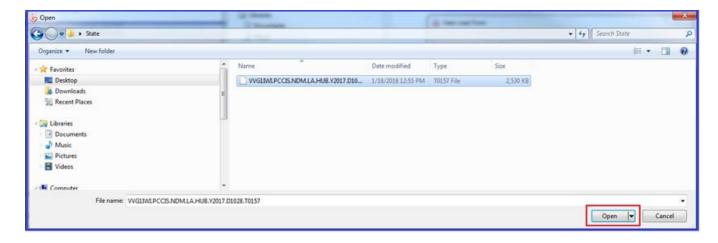
 You must select whether you are loading a file that includes full population or sample data, <u>and</u> mark the check box if the file includes element #40 – Inspection Date.



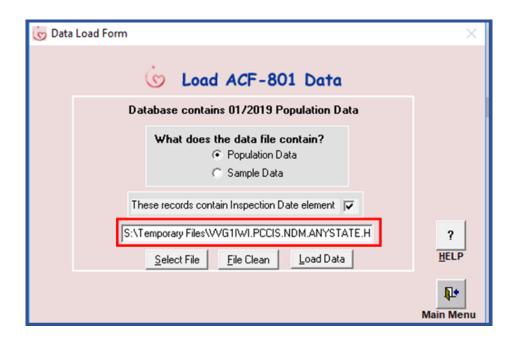
4. To access the data file you wish to load, click the **Select File** button. A browser window will open. Go to the location where your ACF-801 data files are saved.



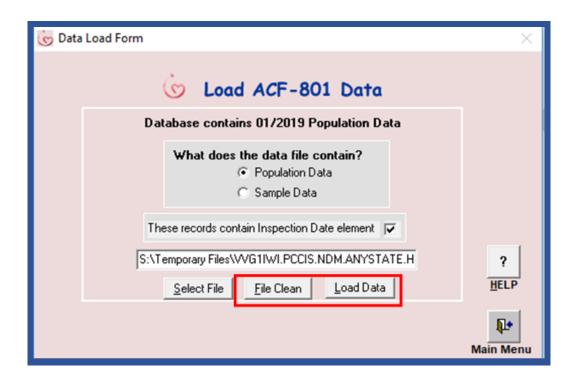
5. Select the name of the data file you wish to load and then click **Open**.



You will see the file path to the data file you selected in the "Load ACF-801 Data" screen.



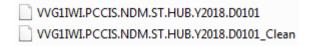
6. Once you have selected the file you wish to load, you have the option to **load** the data file or **clean** the data file.



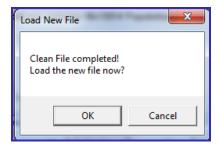
## Cleaning Your Data File

For states that generate fixed length data files (which are padded with spaces), cleaning the ACF-801 data file can create a new, potentially smaller, variable length data file. Loading the new "Clean" ACF-801 data file will take less time since the file size will be reduced. Although the cleaning process itself can take as long as loading the file the first time, the cleaned file will load faster should you want to reload it a second time.

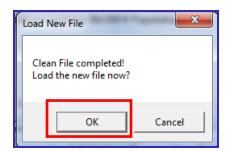
To clean your data file, click **File Clean**. A cleaned file will automatically be saved to the same file location as the data file you initially selected. The cleaned file will have "\_Clean" added to the end of the file name.



When the process is complete a message will appear letting you know that your data have been cleaned.

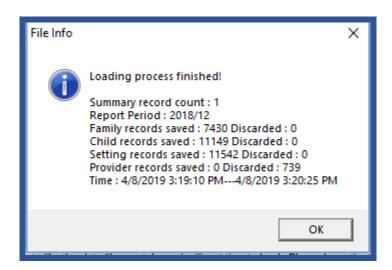


Once the cleaning process is complete, you can load the cleaned data file by clicking **OK**.



7. To load your data file without cleaning, simply click **Load Data**.

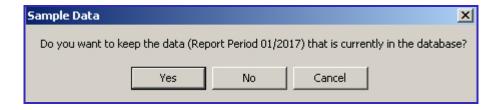
When the loading process is complete, you will be alerted that your data file successfully loaded with the following "File Info" message:



The "File Info" message contains a short summary of the loading process. For data that are loaded, the message indicates the report period, the number of family, child, setting, and provider records saved, the number of records that were discarded (because they contained format errors), and the date and time the data files were loaded.

8. Click **OK** to return to the "Load ACF-801 Data" screen.

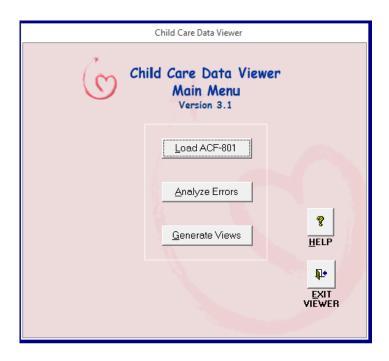
If you report ACF-801 data representing a sample population, you have the option of loading multiple files for analyses into the software by selecting another data file and repeating the loading process described above. The *Data Viewer* will prompt you with a question asking if you wish to keep the existing data file in the database. If you wish to load multiple files, click **Yes** and the new file you selected will begin to load.



If your state reports full population data, it is generally advised that you only keep a single data file in the *Data Viewer* database at a time.

**Note:** The process time of cleaning and/or loading your data file can vary greatly depending on the number of records the file contains, as well as other factors (such as the processing speed of your computer). Smaller data files, such as sample files, may take only a few seconds to load. Large data files may potentially require several hours to load. Please take this into consideration before you load your data file. If you are loading a large data file, you may elect to allow the loading process to run overnight.

9. Once your data file has been loaded, click the **Main Menu** button to return to the Main Menu.



Once at the Main Menu, you will have the option of using one of the modules – Load ACF-801 data, Analyze Errors, or Generate Views – or exiting the program.

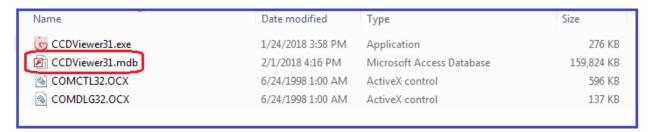
#### **Helpful Notes:**

Exiting the *Data Viewer* software will not erase data that currently are loaded into the database. If you exit the software and re-open it another time, the *Data Viewer* still will contain the data file(s) that were last loaded.

You may also save the existing database to a separate location. This will relieve you from having to reload that same data file each time you want to use it. To save your database, you will need to locate the *Data Viewer's* database *after* you have successfully loaded a file and then exited from the software. If you plan to save or store databases often, it is recommended that you create a folder where you plan to keep them.

Use the following steps to save the database and its associated generated reports:

1. Find the *Data Viewer* files in the folder where you have installed the software.



- 2. There should be an Access database file named **CCDViewer31.mdb**. COPY this database file. (<u>Please Note</u> that the **CCDViewer31.mdb** file must <u>not</u> be deleted or moved. Doing so will cause errors during future *Data Viewer* load operations.)
- 3. PASTE the file wherever you want to store your populated database.
- 4. RENAME the file so you know specifically what month and year of data it contains. For example: *DataViewer 09-01-17*. You can save as many report files as you want for future use and comparison. Be aware that if you have large amounts of data, these saved files can use a considerable amount of storage space on your computer.

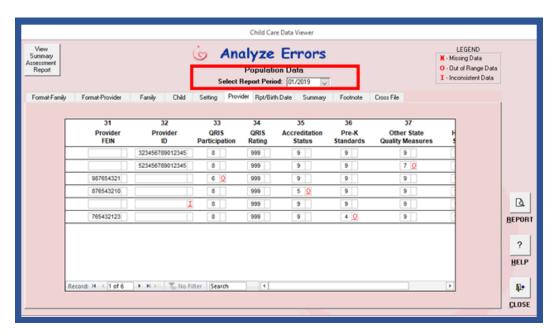
Whenever you need to go back to this database or the associated reports, simply locate the database file you want to use and double-click it to open that copy of the *Data Viewer*. It will already contain the data you had previously saved. You will be able to select and use the function you need immediately and will not have to wait for that specific data to load or the reports to generate again. (Note that renamed copies of the *Data Viewer* database cannot be used to load other ACF-801 data files. All *Data Viewer* load operations must be performed using the originally installed software as the software is looking for the database with the original name.)

#### 3.2 ANALYZING ERRORS

The Analyze Errors function allows the user to generate Summary Assessment Reports (SAR) to identify possible ACF-801 data errors and inconsistencies, and provides helpful information for making corrections. After you have successfully loaded an ACF-801 data file, click on the **Analyze Errors** button to access this module.

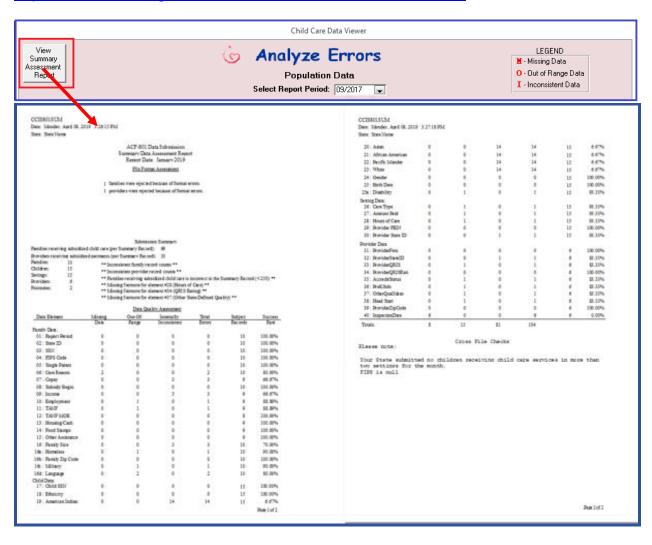


If you have loaded multiple sample data files or a quarterly data file, select the month that you would like to analyze from the **Select Report Period** drop-down list. You can only analyze one month of data at a time with the *Data Viewer*. If you only have one data file loaded, the *Data Viewer* will automatically analyze that data file.



#### 3.2.1 Summary Assessment Report (SAR)

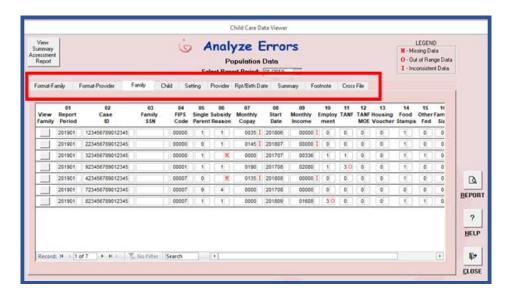
The *Data Viewer* generates a SAR very similar to the one generated by the Office of Child Care Information System (OCCIS). This report provides high-level information about the data submission as a whole. Click the **View Summary Assessment Report** button to generate and view the SAR. Once the report is generated, you can save it as a Microsoft Word or Excel file and/or print it out for your records. For detailed information on the SAR, refer to the latest version of Technical Bulletin #9: <a href="https://www.acf.hhs.gov/occ/resource/current-technical-bulletins">https://www.acf.hhs.gov/occ/resource/current-technical-bulletins</a>.



#### 3.2.2 Analyze Errors Screen

There are ten (10) tabs on the "Analyze Errors" screen (described below); each displays records that contain potential errors. The "errors" displayed in the *Data Viewer* may not necessarily be erroneous data for your state. The checks put in place in the *Data Viewer* are based on general programmatic norms related to child care programs. The data are checked against these norms, and if the data don't meet the criteria, they are flagged by the software as containing possible errors. Only those records with possible errors will be displayed in the screens. If no records are displayed, there are no errors of that type in the data file that were flagged by the Viewer.

The checks in the *Data Viewer* are the same as those made in the OCCIS when you submit your data. Thus any "errors" in the *Data Viewer* will show up as "errors" when you submit your data to OCCIS if you fail to make corrections or changes prior to submitting the data.



**NOTE:** Version 3.1 of the Data Viewer no longer has two tabs: CoPay/Payment and Fam/Child SSN. Because copay is no longer included in the payment, there is no need for a consistency check. Additionally, SSNs are not to be included in the ACF-801 report, therefore, there is no longer a check on SSNS.

The Format-Family, Format-Provider, Summary, and Footnote tabs show records that are not formatted properly, while the Cross File tab shows results of a programmatic analysis of the data. Each of the remaining tabs shows the following types of errors:

- **M** *Missing* data error
- **O** Out Of Range data error
- I Internal Consistency data error (These errors identify inconsistencies between related data elements)

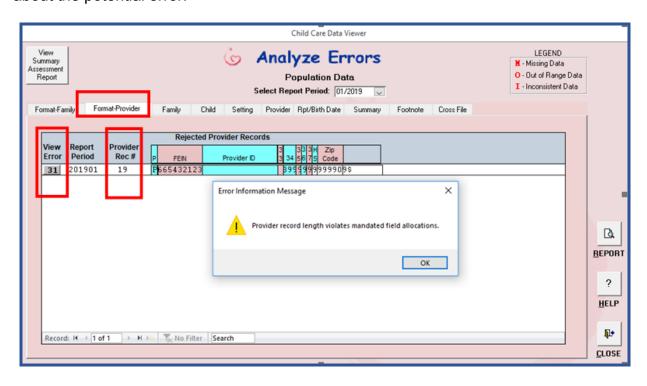


# Format-Family, Format-Provider, Summary, and Footnote Tabs

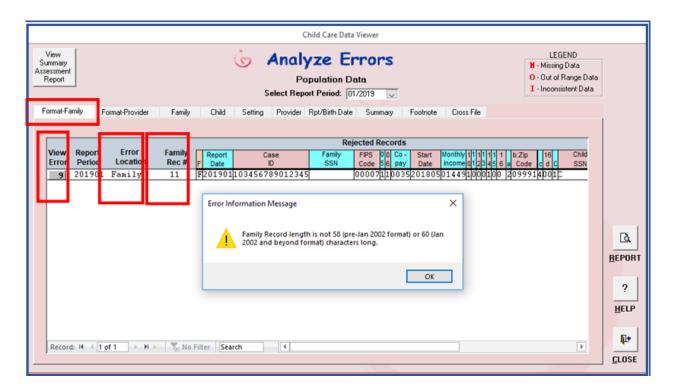
https://www.acf.hhs.gov/occ/resource/current-technical-bulletins.

Each of these tabs displays records that contain format errors. Records with format errors do not have the appropriate number of characters or delimiters as a part of the record. The *Data Viewer* can only read files that have been properly formatted. Any records which are not formatted properly are discarded by the *Data Viewer* and not included in the data analysis. For more information on properly formatted records, refer to the latest version of Technical Bulletin #4:

The user can view rejected records and identify the format error(s) within that record. To obtain a description of the error, click the **View Error** button associated with the rejected record for which you want more information. A window will pop-up displaying a message about the potential error.

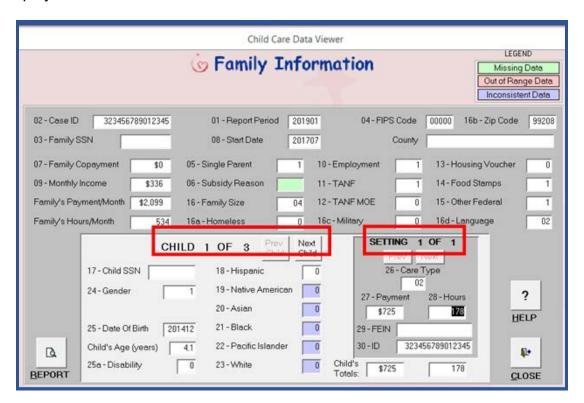


On the Format-Family tab, the **Error Location** column indicates whether the format error is in the record's family, child or setting data. The **Family Rec # and Provider Rec #** columns indicate the approximate line location of the erroneous record within the ACF-801 data file. The Format Family or Format Provider tabs will indicate the exact line within the ACF-801 file. For example in the Format Family tab shown below, the first error is located in the setting record for the family reported on the 2<sup>nd</sup> line of the ACF-801 file.

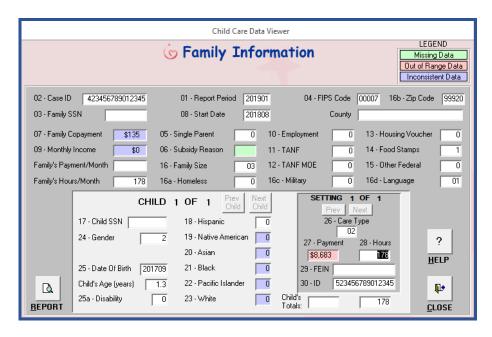


### Family, Child, Setting, Provider, and Rpt/Birth Date Tabs

These tabs display all Family, Child, Setting, and Provider records that contain missing, out of range, and/or inconsistent data. Only records containing these types of errors will be displayed.

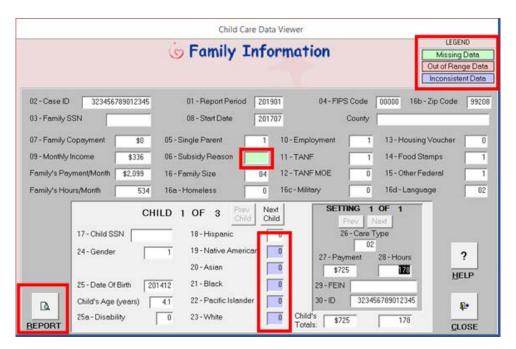


To view details about the error, click on the **View Family** button for the record you wish to display in the "Family Information" screen.



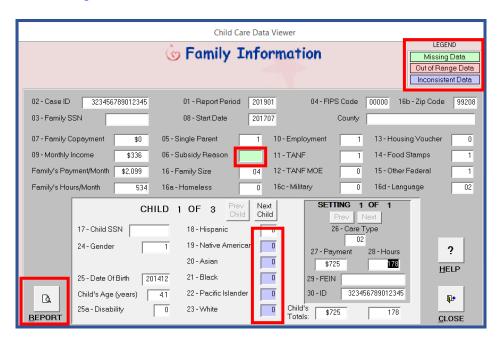
#### **Family Information Screen**

The "Family Information" screen displays all data for the family, including child and setting information and information identifying the provider. The Child and Setting areas of the screen contain navigation buttons to allow you to view information for additional children and settings for that same family.



The errors are color-coded to indicate missing (green), out-of-range (pink), and inconsistent (blue) data. Hold your cursor over a data field to learn more about the valid ranges or consistency checks. Refer to Technical Bulletin #3 for more information on valid ranges and consistency checks:

https://www.acf.hhs.gov/occ/resource/current-technical-bulletins.



The **Report** button displayed on the "Family Information" screen will provide you with a report detailing all of the family, child setting, and provider identifying information in that family's record.

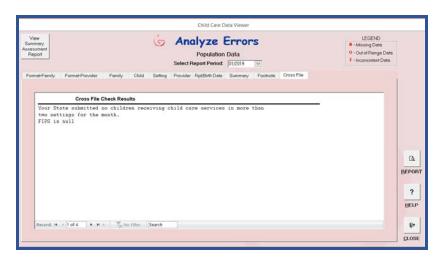
Family Information												
					Report	Period:	01/2019					
02. Case ID	32345678	9012345	OL R	eport Period	201901	04. FIPS	Cade 00000	Con	mb.			
03. Family St	eV.		08.5	tart Date	201707					10.	Employmen	1 - Y
07. Monthly 0	one:	SO				05. Singl	e Parent	Y		11.	TANF	1 - Y
09. Monthly I		\$336								12.	State Progra	200 0 - N
or. neurona a	NE GROVE	3330				96. Rece	on Code			13.	Housing	0 - N
Family's Tota	l Payment'l	<i>forth</i>	\$2,099							14.	Food Stamp	4 1 - Y
Family's Total	l Hours/Mo	nth	534			16. Fami	ly Size 04			15.	Other Feder	raf 1 - Y
16a Homeles	0.	N	165. Fa	uth Zip Code	99208	1	6c. Military Se	rvice	0 - N			
				160	d. Primary La	ngunge	02 - Spanish	3				
17	IS .	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	25a	26	27	28
Child SSN	Hispanie / Latino	Alaskan	Astan	Block/ African Am.	Hawaitan/ Islandar	White	Gender	Date of Birth	Disability	Care Type	Monthly Payment	Monthly Hours
	0 - N	0 - N I	0 - N I	0 - N I	0 - N I	0 - N I	1 - Male	201412	0 - N			
					Licens of R	legulated Fam	ilyHome Child C	àre		02	\$725	178
									29 - Prov	icker FEDV	ē.	
	0 - N		0 - N I	0 - N I	0 - N I	A 37.1	1 - Male	201109	30 - Provide 0 - N	r Sante ID	3234567	89012345
	0-14	0.81	0-241	0.81			ilyHome Child C		0-14	02	\$687	178
							.,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,		29 - Prov			
									30 - Provide	r State ID	3234567	89012345
Wednesday, April	10, 2019											Page 1 of

#### **Cross File Tab**

Cross File messages present the results of a programmatic analysis of all the data that passed the file format and data quality checks. For additional information on Cross File checks, refer to the latest version of Technical Bulletin #9:

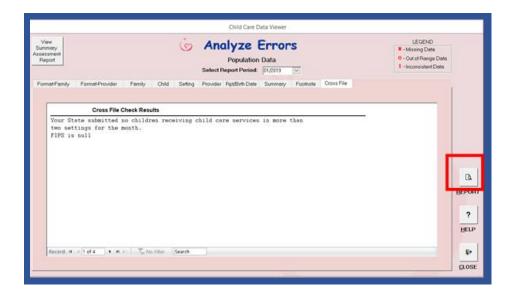
https://www.acf.hhs.gov/occ/resource/current-technical-bulletins.

These checks do not necessarily indicate that there is an error in your data, but it does indicate that your data do not conform to typical national averages and may warrant some investigation to ensure accuracy.

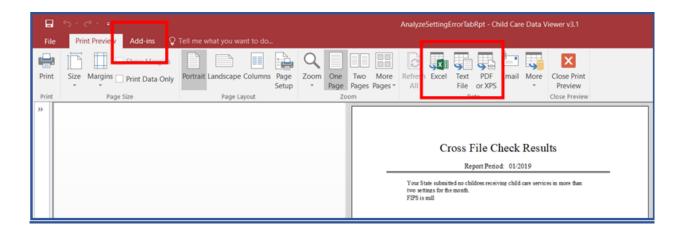


# **Report Button**

The **Report** button on the Analyze Errors screen allows the user to view and print a list of family or provider records which may contain errors. The family or provider records with potential errors are listed in order by FIPS code. Provider records are listed in order by ID number. **Note**: In order to view the full range of elements, you will have to use the scroll bar at the bottom of the screen.



To view a report of all documented errors within a particular category (i.e., child, setting, provider, footnote, etc...), navigate to that tab and click the **Report** button. Once a report is generated, click on the *Add-Ins* or *Print Preview* tabs to open it in Microsoft Word or Excel to save/export and/or print it out for your records.



#### 3.3 GENERATING AND CUSTOMIZING REPORTS

The reports module of the *Data Viewer* allows you to generate standard reports. Some of these reports may be customized to meet your program's unique needs. (For more information on customizing reports, see Sections 3.3.2 and 3.3.3.)



#### 3.3.1 Selecting Views (Generating Reports)

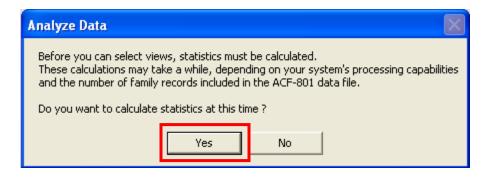
When SAR's are generated, they analyze only one month's data at a time. When reports are generated through Generate Views, they combine all of the data currently in the *Data Viewer* and prepare one consolidated report.

## **Steps for Generating Reports:**

- 1. Click the **Generate Views** button from the Main Menu.
- 2. Click **Select Views** from the sub-menu.

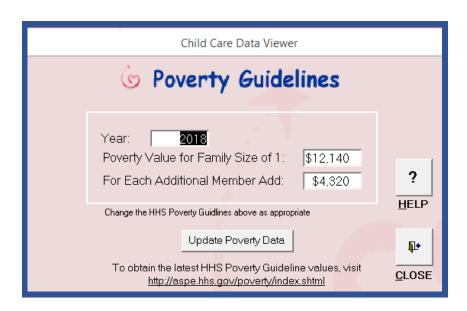


3. Before you can select any reports, the *Data Viewer* must calculate the appropriate statistics. When prompted, click **Yes** if you want to calculate statistics and continue.



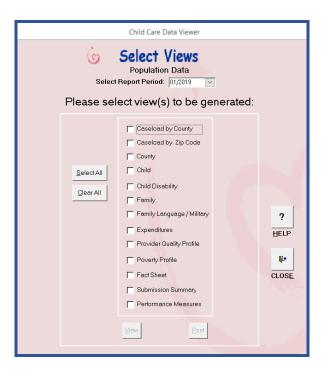
**Note:** The length of time it takes to calculate statistics will depend upon the number of records in the data file(s), as well as other factors.

When you click **Yes**, the "Poverty Guidelines" screen will open. Poverty guidelines provide the basis for your Poverty Profile report calculations. If the existing values are correct, click **OK**. If the values are not correct, enter the poverty guidelines that you want to use, specify the year for which they apply, and click **OK**. Once you have confirmed the correct poverty values and year, the *Data Viewer* will then calculate the statistics for each of the reports. (See Section 3.3.3 for more information on Poverty Guidelines).



4. After the statistics have been calculated, select the desired report(s) you wish to view or print by checking the box on the left of each report name. Click the View or Print button. Once reports are generated, they can be exported into Microsoft Excel or Word for customization.

When you load full population data in the *Data Viewer*, there are thirteen (13) reports available to you. If you load sample data, the County Profile report will not be available.



Each report shows key summary fact information at the top of the report and summary information (which may include charts and graphs) below that box. The available reports include:

- <u>Caseload by County Profile</u>: Provides a county breakout of the records in your data file, indicating the number and percentage of families and children in each county. For sample data, the report details the number and percentages of families and children sampled from each county. This report can be customized by creating regions for which you want summary information. (See the Section on Creating Regions in Section 3.3.2.)
- <u>Caseload by Zip Code</u>: Provides a breakout of the records in your data file by zip code, indicating the number and percentage of families, children, homeless families, and providers in each zip code. For sample data, the report details the number and percentages of families and children sampled from each zip code.
- County Profile (available only for full population data files): Provides information by County, including the number of families, percentage of new families, information regarding expenditures and co-pay, reason for care, type of care and other child care service features.

- <u>Child Profile</u>: Gives summary information about the children you served, including the average number of hours of care per month by age and type of care, and race/ethnicity.
- <u>Child Disability</u>: Provides the number of children with and without disabilities by age. (See Section 3.3.2 for information on customizing defaults.)
- <u>Family Profile</u>: Summarizes information about the reason for care, family sources of income, and family income and co-pay. (See Section 3.3.2 for information on customizing groups.)
- <u>Family Language/Military</u>: Provides information on the number and percentage of children within each reported language and response for Military status.
- Expenditures Profile: Provides information on the average monthly expenditures for child care by age and type of care.
- <u>Provider Quality Profile</u>: Summarizes information about provider QRIS participation, accreditation, and other quality information.
- <u>Poverty Profile</u>: Summarizes information on family size, family income, and copay and care type relative to poverty as defined by the poverty information you enter in the *Data Viewer*.
- <u>Fact Sheet</u>: Each of the available reports has data facts detailed in a text box at the top. The Fact Sheet provides a one page summary of all the information that is in the text boxes on each of the other eight reports.
- <u>Submission Summary</u>: This report includes information from the header record including the report period, the number of families served, the number of children in Pre-K, and any footnotes included with the file.
  - If you have loaded multiple sample data files or a quarterly data file, there will be one submission summary report for each month of data you have loaded in the *Data Viewer*.
- <u>Performance Measure</u>: Estimates the percentage of eligible families that the State served and the percentage of their income families are paying toward their co-pay. (See Section 3.3.2 for information on customizing defaults.)

#### 3.3.2 Customizing Groups and Creating Regions

The *Data Viewer* is pre-set with default groupings for age, income, and co-pay on which reports are based. Additionally, Counties can be grouped together to define Regions.

#### **Customizing Groups**

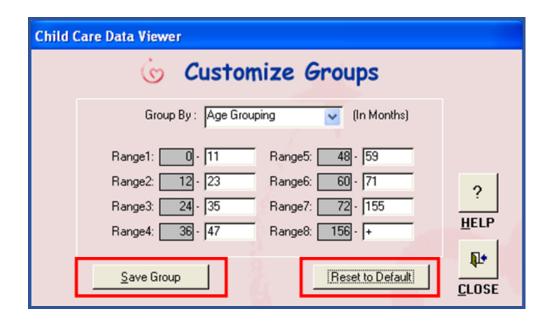
The defaults are general groupings that may fit the basic needs of most child care programs. The *Data Viewer* lets you change the default groupings to better fit your reporting needs. For example, the default age groups for infants, toddlers, and preschool aged children are in one-year increments (0-1, 1-2, etc.), while school-aged children are grouped together (6-13). You may need to analyze your data with preschool aged or infant/toddler aged children grouped together. The *Data Viewer* lets you change the age groupings to meet your needs.

#### **Steps for Customizing Groups:**

- 1. Click the **Customize Groups** button from the "Generate Views" sub-menu.
- Select the group criteria for which you would like to change the ranges (age, income, or co-pay) from the drop-down list. Enter the new ranges you would like your report to use.



- 3. Click the **Save Group** button. Your newly established groupings will be used as the basis for reports until you either restore the defaults or change them to alternative groupings.
- 4. To restore any group defaults, click the **Reset to Default** button and then click the **Save Group** button.

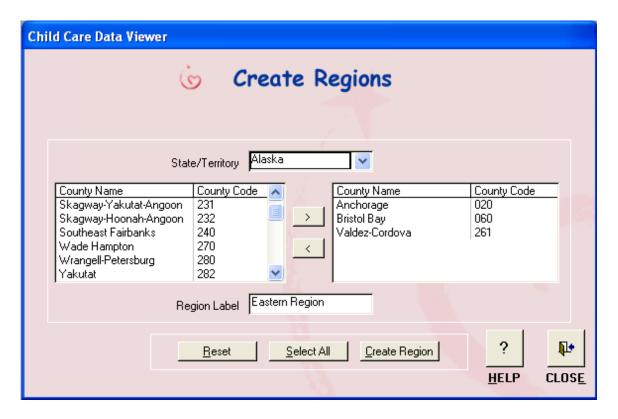


## **Creating/Viewing/Deleting Regions**

The Caseload Profile report provides information at the county level. You may, however, wish to have your data analyzed based on a regional breakout. You can create Regions using the "Create Regions" sub-menu. If you define Regions, the Caseload Profile report will be based on those Regions.

#### **Steps for Creating Regions:**

- 1. Click the **Create Regions** button from the "Generate Views" sub-menu. Your state's name will be listed in the "State/Territory" box (based on the data file you successfully loaded in the *Viewer*).
- 2. Select the counties on the left that you would like to link together as a Region. Hold down the *Ctrl* key to highlight multiple counties at one time.
- 3. Click the right pointing arrow (>) to move the selected counties into the field on the right.
- 4. Type a label name in the "Region Label" field.



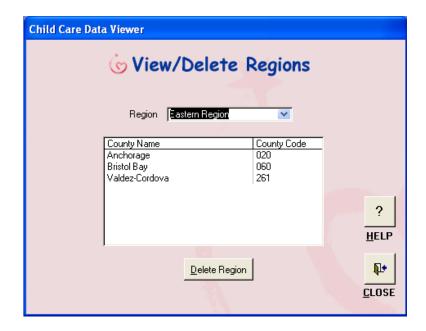
- Click the Create Region button at the bottom of the page.
- Create another Region if desired. Only those counties that have not been designated as a part of a Region will remain in the "County Name/County Code" field on the left side.
- 7. If you want to create a Region for all or all remaining counties click the **Select All** button and click the right-pointing arrow (>). Enter a label name and click the **Create Region** button.

The County Profile report will provide summary information for the Regions that you have created along with summary information separately for each of the counties in your State.

Any Regions that you create will be saved and will be the basis of any future caseload profile reports until you either change the regions or delete them.

#### 8. Click Close.

To view the Regions that you have created, click the **View/Delete Regions** button from the "Generate Views" sub-menu. Select the desired Region from the drop-down list. The county names/codes that you assigned to that Region will be listed in the field below.



If you wish to delete a Region, select the Region from the drop-down list and click the **Delete Region** button at the bottom of the form. Those counties will no longer be included as a part of a Region and will remain on the list of counties that you haven't designated to be a part of a Region.

#### 3.3.3 Updating Calculation Values

The *Data Viewer* has several values that are used as the basis for some calculations and to determine which data to include in the reports:

- Poverty Guidelines
- Maximum Age for eligibility
- Number of eligible families

You have the ability to update these values to better fit your reporting needs.

### **Poverty Guidelines**

The Poverty Profile report has information that is based on poverty level information. In general, you should use the Federal poverty guidelines associated with the Federal fiscal year of the data you have loaded in the *Data Viewer*. However, you may choose to run this report based on a different year's poverty level information or your State poverty level information. It is important to review which year's information is loaded in the Poverty Guidelines form prior to running reports.

#### **Steps for Updating Poverty Guidelines:**

- 1. Click on the "Poverty Guidelines" sub-menu.
- 2. Enter the year of the poverty guidelines on which you want your reports based.
- 3. Enter the appropriate values for the "Poverty Value for Family Size of 1" field and the "Each Additional Family Member Add" field.
- 4. Click the **Update Poverty Data** button and the *Viewer* will run the statistics.

#### **Maximum Age and Eligible Families**

The *Data Viewer* has a default value for each state representing the maximum age of children that are served by the CCDF program in that state. Only the data for those children who meet the maximum age requirement will be included in the reports. You may only want to include children with a lower maximum age in your report. If so, you can change the maximum age default in the *Data Viewer*.

The *Data Viewer* was also pre-set with estimated numbers of subsidy-eligible families for each State. The Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE) of the Dept. of Health and Human Services (HHS) prepared estimates for the number of families eligible for child care services in each State/Territory in 1999 around the time when the *Data Viewer* was first released. The Performance Measures report uses these estimates to generate statistics on the percentage of eligible families being served.

We strongly encourage you to update the default estimate with a figure that you think more accurately represents the number of subsidy-eligible families in your state. This can be taken from more recent estimates released by ASPE or a number that your state has internally developed. The *Data Viewer* allows you to update/change the number of eligible families to suit your reporting needs.

#### Steps for Customizing Maximum Age and Eligible Family Count Defaults:

- 1. From the Generate Views sub-menu, click the **Customize Defaults** button.
- 2. Enter the maximum age of the children you want to include in your reports. The number for *Maximum Child Age* will represent the maximum age of children to include in the reports— e.g. a maximum age of 15 indicates that you do not want any children over the age of 15 included in your reports. Children that are 15 at the end of the report period that the data file represents will be included.
- 3. Enter the value that best represents the number of CCDF eligible families in your state.

# 4. Click the Close button.

Note: These defaults will be used as the basis for calculations until you change them.

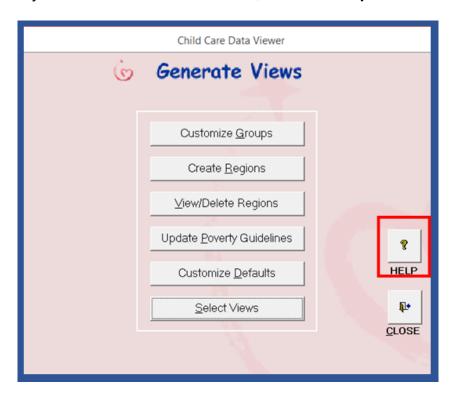


# 4. RESOURCES FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Should you have questions or need assistance when using the *Data Viewer*, there are two primary sources for help: 1) the Integrated Help System embedded into the software, and 2) the National Center on Child Care Data and Reporting (NCDR).

#### **4.1 INTEGRATED HELP**

On virtually every screen within the *Data Viewer*, there is a **Help** button.



Clicking on the **Help** button will display information related to the area of the *Data* Viewer in which you are working.

# Generate Views Help

Generate Views allows the user to customize various parameters that affect the generation of Child Care Data Viewer Reports.

#### Customize Groups

Customize Groups allows the user to adjust the data ranges for Age, Income, and Copayment which appear in the Family View, Child View, and Expenditure View.

#### Create Regions

Create Regions allows the user to group Counties into Regions. The left-hand window contains all Counties not previously assigned to a Region. The right-hand window displays the Counties that are about to be assigned a Region.

#### View/Delete Regions

View/Delete Regions allows the user to view the Counties that have been assigned to each Region. This form also allows the user to delete desired Regions.

#### **Update Poverty Guidelines**

Update Poverty Guidelines allows the user to update and validate the HHS Poverty Guideline values associated with the report year of the ACF-801 data file.

#### **Customize Defaults**

Customize Defaults allows the user to modify default values used during Child Care Data Viewer data loading and view generation.

#### Select Views

Select Views allows the user to choose which Child Care Data Viewer reports to generate and view.

Click CLOSE to close the Generate Views Form.

## 4.2 NATIONAL CENTER ON CHILD CARE DATA AND REPORTING (NCDR)

The National Center on Child Care Data and Reporting (NCDR) is supported by the OCC to provide training and technical assistance related to CCDF ACF-800 and ACF-801 reporting requirements. You can reach NCDR staff Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. prevailing Eastern Time.

E-mail: NCDR@ecetta.info

Phone: 1-877-249-9117 (toll free)

Fax: 1-301-816-8640

The NCDR mailing address is:

NCDR C/O GDIT 2600 Tower Oaks Boulevard, Suite 600 Rockville, MD 20852